COURT STRUCTURE OF TEXAS *January 1, 2012* **Supreme Court Court of Criminal Appeals** (1 Court -- 9 Judges) (1 Court -- 9 Justices) State Highest -- Statewide Jurisdiction ---- Statewide Jurisdiction --Appellate Courts • Final appellate jurisdiction in civil • Final appellate jurisdiction in cases and juvenile cases. criminal cases. Civil Appeals Criminal Appeals **Courts of Appeals** (14 Courts -- 80 Justices) -- Regional Jurisdiction --State Intermediate Appellate Courts • Intermediate appeals from trial courts in their respective courts of appeals districts. **District Courts** (456 Courts -- 456 Judges) (359 Districts Containing One County and 97 Districts Containing More than One County) State Trial Courts of General and -- Jurisdiction --Special Jurisdiction Original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$200, divorce, title to land, contested elections. · Original jurisdiction in felony criminal matters. · Juvenile matters. • 13 district courts are designated criminal district courts; some others are directed to give preference to certain specialized areas. **County-Level Courts** (508 Courts -- 508 Judges) Constitutional County Courts (254) Statutory County Courts (236) Statutory Probate Courts (18) (Established in 88 Counties) (Established in 10 Counties) (One Court in Each County) -- Jurisdiction ---- Jurisdiction ---- Jurisdiction --· Original jurisdiction in civil actions · Limited primarily County Trial Courts of • All civil, criminal, original and Limited Jurisdiction between \$200 and \$10,000. appellate actions prescribed by to probate matters. • Probate (contested matters may be law for constitutional county transferred to District Court). courts • Exclusive original jurisdiction over • In addition, jurisdiction over misdemeanors with fines greater civil matters up to \$200,000 than \$500 or jail sentence. (some courts may have higher maximum jurisdiction amount). Juvenile matters. · Appeals de novo from lower courts or on the record from municipal courts of record. **Justice Courts²** Municipal Courts³ (815 Courts -- 815 Judges) (926 Cities -- 1,553 Judges) (Established in Precincts Within Each County) -- Jurisdiction ---- Iurisdiction --· Criminal misdemeanors punishable by fine only (no confinement). Civil actions of not more than \$10,000. Local Trial Courts of • Exclusive original jurisdiction over municipal · Small claims. Limited Jurisdiction ordinance criminal cases. Criminal misdemeanors punishable by • Limited civil jurisdiction. fine only (no confinement). · Magistrate functions. Magistrate functions.

- The dollar amount is currently unclear.
- 2. All justice courts and most municipal courts are not courts of record. Appeals from these courts are by trial de novo in the county-level courts, and in some instances in the district courts.
- Some municipal courts are courts of record appeals from those courts are taken on the record to the county-level courts.
- 4. An offense that arises under a municipal ordinance is punishable by a fine not to exceed: (1) \$2,000 for ordinances that govern fire safety, zoning, and public health or (2) \$500 for all others.